

**YOLO WMA WORK PLAN
Supplemental Project
YOLO RCD**

2 YEAR CONTRACT: January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2012

Combined Contract Lead Group (County, RCD, or Other) and contact information:

Yolo County RCD, Dan Efseaff, Executive Director, efseaff@yolorcd.org
221 W. Court St., Suite 1, Woodland, CA 95695 (530) 662-2037 ext. 116

**SUPPLEMENTAL WMA PROPOSAL
Yolo County Weed Management Area**

WMA Supplemental Proposal COVER SHEET

Supplemental Project Manager:

Tanya Meyer, Vegetation Management Specialist, meyer@yolorcd.org
221 West Court Street, Suite 1, Woodland, California 95695, (530) 662-2037 ext 114

Supplemental Executive Summary (MAX 10 lines):

The Yolo County WMA was formed in 1999 and is led by the Yolo County Department of Agriculture and the Yolo County Resource Conservation District. Both of our proposed projects work in partnership with important members of our WMA, the Rumsey Tribe of Wintun Indians and Audubon California's Landowner Stewardship Program, along sections of our major creeks in Yolo County, Cache and Putah, to treat persistent populations of B rated riparian weeds that degrade habitat for birds, mammals and pollinators, and cause flooding and weed infestations on valuable neighboring agricultural lands. These projects will continue the ongoing weed work on both of these creeks to protect our investment of work so far, enhance and support the natural assets of Yolo County for recreation such as rafting, hiking, bird watching and agri-tourism, all associated with strong economic and quality-of-life benefits for residents and visitors.

Your WMA's TOP THREE Accomplishments over the past 2 years (Max- 2 lines each):

1. Woolly distaff thistle project: Yolo County Ag Dept. staff monitored and treated individual plants at a remote site covering 400 acres. In spring 2009 we were unable to find new plants.
2. The Yolo County Ag Dept. has been working for years on two small sites of oblong spurge and skeleton weed. In the summer of 2009 we considered those sites eradicated.
3. The Cache Creek Conservancy has worked for three seasons on Yellow Flag Iris and Purple Loosestrife. These small populations are almost eradicated.

Supplemental Summary of Methods Used (MAX 4 lines) :

The WDT site was monitored by marking each plant with GPS. These plants and surrounding areas were then treated with Milestone herbicide. The other sites were quite small and easy to locate and were also treated with herbicide. We used glyphosate on the oblong spurge and skeleton weed and imazapyr and glyphosate on the yellow flag iris and purple loosestrife.

Supplemental Summary of Net and Gross Acres:

Estimated Net acres or number of plants proposed to actually treat: 15 acres or less

Gross acres proposed to cover while conducting treatments: 32.11

Estimated Total Cost per acre for proposed treatments: Cache Creek= \$1,400

Supplemental Summary of In-Kind Contributions toward the Project (MAX 4 lines):

Project 1- The Rumsey Rancheria will provide staff and equipment to manage, monitor and map the site, including a GIS specialist and an ATV, and will pay half of the weed contractor's fees. Project 2- Audubon California LSP will provide expert staff time to control weeds, monitor and map the site, and weed control equipment, including backpack sprayers and an ATV.

(Yolo RCD Supplemental Continued)

WMA Group: Yolo County

Supplemental Project Title: Capay Valley Stretch of Cache Creek Tamarisk and Arundo Control and Ravenna Grass Eradication Project

Supplemental Priority Topic Area Being Addressed (from request for proposal announcement):

Part of this project addresses **Priority Topic Area #1**, the eventual eradication of Ravenna grass (*saccharum ravennae*) in the Cache Creek watershed. Because this population is only found in the Cache Creek watershed and not in other riparian habitats in northern California, and is relatively easy to treat, it is still possible to achieve eradication.

Part of this project addresses **Priority Topic Area #2**, containment of Ravenna grass. While this weed is not likely to jump across dry hills to other watersheds, it is very possible that this plant will infest the Delta system if left unchecked. Humans could also spread it to other northern California watersheds.

This project addresses Supplemental **Priority Topic Area #3**, regional collaborations. The property we are proposing to work on belongs to the Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians, important members of the Yolo County WMA and the Cache Creek Watershed Forum. The tribe has been working with the Cache Creek Conservancy since 2003 to control riparian weeds on Cache Creek, and have been working with the Yolo RCD on educational restoration projects with local students, as well as with the NRCS on land conservation practices. The tribe has also just received funding from the US Fish & Wildlife Service to work on controlling weeds and restoring habitat along about 10 miles of creek frontage at the bottom of the Capay Valley. Tribal land managers are eager to work with local experts to improve wildlife habitat along Cache Creek.

This project addresses Supplemental **Priority Topic Area #4**, high value sites. Economically, Cache Creek supplies water to Yolo County farmers, and flows all summer long. Much of this valuable water is being taken up by tamarisk (*tamarisk parviflora*) and arundo, (*arundo donax*), thirsty weeds that also degrade wildlife habitat in an area lacking in quality riparian habitat. One of Yolo County's strengths is its regional diversity of natural resources, including its foothills and rangeland for ranching, fertile soil for farming, and the natural beauty of the Cache Creek watershed for recreation such as rafting, hiking, bird watching and agri-tourism. The long-term and region-wide benefits of this project are to protect these resource assets by controlling habitat-destroying riparian weeds.

Supplemental Project Goal (6 LINES MAX):

The overall goal of this project is to continue the control work of tamarisk and arundo along Cache Creek and eradicate Ravenna grass (*saccharum ravennae*) from the Cache Creek

Watershed. Much work has gone on upstream and downstream, and this middle section needs to be treated. We want to increase and coordinate our resources for the survey, treatment, and monitoring the infestations of the CDFA “B” rated tamarisk, arundo and Ravenna grass (not yet rated) in Yolo County.

(Yolo RCD Supplemental Continued)

What are the project’s long-term benefits and/or region-wide significance (6 LINES MAX):

The Cache Creek watershed and riparian corridor hosts a wealth of wildlife habitat along its 75 miles, but is severely impacted by riparian weeds, which displace native wildlife-friendly vegetation, and in some locations, including our site, exacerbate stream bank erosion and flooding by constricting and deflecting flow. Millions of dollars have been spent on weed control both upstream in Lake and Colusa counties and downstream in the valley, but the Capay Valley stretch is the missing link. Weed seeds from this area are re-infesting work downstream.

Supplemental Project Objectives and Methods (1/2 page MAX):

Task 1/Objective 1—Spring 2011: survey the targeted area to monitor density of the infestation of the three species.

1. Map and compare tamarisk densities with arundo and Ravenna grass densities.
2. Estimate the amount of herbicide needed for tamarisk treatment vs. arundo and Ravenna grass treatment. We will use an *imazapyr*, *glyphosate* and surfactant mix on the tamarisk and a *glyphosate* and surfactant mix on the arundo and Ravenna grass.
3. Schedule the contractor.
4. Work in collaboration with other groups using the same contractor.

Supplemental Task 2/Objective 2—Summer/Fall 2011-Initiate control efforts.

1. Use herbicide treatment as needed (*imazapyr* and *glyphosate*, plus surfactant).
2. Monitor treated areas for plant death.
3. Work will be performed by current sub-contractor doing other work for YCRCD and the tribe.

Supplemental Task 3/Objective 3—Summer/Fall 2012-Continue control efforts.

1. Monitor the treated areas for new plants and re-growth.
2. Use herbicide treatment as needed (*imazapyr* and *glyphosate*, plus surfactant).
3. Work will be performed by current sub-contractor doing other work for YCRCD and the tribe.

Supplemental Performance measures (1/4 page max):

How will you quantitatively monitor your project? *Distinguish between year one goals versus long term goals following treatment.*

The Yolo County RCD and the Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians land manager will lead this project. The 219.9 acre Chalom ranch is the site of the infestation. There are 4,542 feet or .86 miles of creek front, of which 25.61 *gross* acres are infested. We estimate that the weed cover averages 50%. Some areas have very sparse net populations, while others are thickets. We will work with our experienced contractor using tractors, ATVs and hand crews to treat the entire area with a foliar spray and expect to control this infestation. The application will take place at the most effective time period, in late summer. The next summer, we will survey for any missed

individual plants and GPS and treat any plants that are found. The tribal land manager will monitor and re-treat the site for several seasons after our funding has ended.

Materials to be used will be *imazapyr* and *glyphosate* and a surfactant for the tamarisk and *glyphosate* and a surfactant for the arundo and Ravenna grass. Imazapyr is more expensive than glyphosate and has been observed to have longer lasting soil residual, so we want to avoid using it on anything other than tamarisk. We will only use chemicals approved for use near water.

(Yolo RCD Supplemental Continued)

Supplemental Performance Measures:

- Evaluate treatment successes by monitoring using CDFA's Quadrant monitoring protocol, measuring the percent cover of weeds, or individual plants when feasible.
- Monitor at least bi-annually by on-site physical checking and photos. Maintain data on area treated: location, number of plants, chemical usage, need for re-treatment. Digital photos will also be taken to document the extent and success of the control efforts.